

(iv) On the earliest date on which the bonds may be called or otherwise redeemed, with or without a call premium, the unexpended available construction proceeds as of that date (not including any amount earned after the date on which notice of the redemption was required to be given) must be used to redeem the bonds. Amounts used to pay any call premium are treated as used to redeem bonds. This redemption requirement may be met by purchases of bonds by the issuer on the open market at prices not exceeding fair market value. A portion of the annual principal payment due on serial bonds of a construction issue may be paid from the unexpended amount, but only in an amount no greater than the amount that bears the same ratio to the annual principal due that the total unexpended amount bears to the issue price of the construction issue.

(2) *Termination before end of initial temporary period.* If the construction to be financed by the construction issue is substantially completed before the end of the initial temporary period, the issuer may elect to terminate the 1½ percent penalty before the end of the initial temporary period (a *section 148(f)(4)(C)(ix) penalty termination*) if—

(i) Before the close of the initial temporary period and not later than 90 days after the date the construction is substantially completed, the issuer elects to terminate the 1½ percent penalty;

(ii) The election identifies the amount of available construction proceeds that will not be spent for the governmental purposes of the issue; and

(iii) The issuer has met all of the conditions for a section 148(f)(4)(C)(viii) penalty termination, applied as if the initial temporary period ended as of the date the required election for a section 148(f)(4)(C)(ix) penalty termination is made. That penalty termination election satisfies the required election for a section 148(f)(4)(C)(viii) termination.

(3) *Application to reasonable retainage.* Solely for purposes of determining whether the conditions for terminating the 1½ percent penalty are met, reasonable retainage may be treated as spent for a governmental purpose of

the construction issue. Reasonable retainage that is so treated continues to be subject to the 1½ percent penalty.

(4) *Example.* The operation of this paragraph (1) is illustrated by the following example.

Example. City *I* issues a construction issue having a 20-year maturity and qualifying for a 3-year initial temporary period. The bonds are first subject to optional redemption 10 years after the issue date at a premium of 3 percent. *I* elects, on or before the issue date, to pay the 1½ percent penalty in lieu of arbitrage rebate. At the end of the 3-year temporary period, the project is not substantially completed, and \$1,500,000 of available construction proceeds of the issue are unspent. At that time, *I* reasonably expects to need \$500,000 to complete the project. *I* may terminate the 1½ percent penalty in lieu of arbitrage rebate with respect to the excess \$1,500,000 by electing to terminate within 90 days of the end of the initial temporary period; paying a penalty to the United States of \$135,000 (3 percent of \$1,500,000 multiplied by 3 years); restricting the yield on the investment of unspent available construction proceeds for 7 years until the first call date, although any portion of these proceeds may still be spent on the project prior to that call date; and using the available construction proceeds that, as of the first call date, have not been allocated to expenditures for the governmental purposes of the issue to redeem bonds on that call date. If *I* fails to make the termination election, *I* is required to pay the 1½ percent penalty on unspent available construction proceeds every 6 months until the latest maturity date of bonds of the issue (or any bonds of another issue that refund such bonds).

(m) *Payment of penalties.* Each penalty payment under this section must be paid in the manner provided in § 1.148-3(g). See § 1.148-3(h) for rules on failures to pay penalties under this section.

[T.D. 8476, 58 FR 33535, June 18, 1993; 58 FR 44452, Aug. 23, 1993]

§ 1.148-8 Small issuer exception to rebate requirement.

(a) *Scope.* Under section 148(f)(4)(D), bonds issued to finance governmental activities of certain small issuers are treated as meeting the arbitrage rebate requirement of section 148(f)(2) (the “small issuer exception”). This section provides guidance on the small issuer exception.

(b) *General taxing powers.* The small issuer exception generally applies only to bonds issued by governmental units with general taxing powers. A governmental unit has general taxing powers if it has the power to impose taxes (or to cause another entity to impose taxes) of general applicability which, when collected, may be used for the general purposes of the issuer. The taxing power may be limited to a specific type of tax, provided that the applicability of the tax is not limited to a small number of persons. The governmental unit's exercise of its taxing power may be subject to procedural limitations, such as voter approval requirements, but may not be contingent on approval by another governmental unit. See, also, section 148(f)(4)(D)(iv).

(c) *Size limitation*—(1) *In general.* An issue (other than a refunding issue) qualifies for the small issuer exception only if the issuer reasonably expects, as of the issue date, that the aggregate face amount of all tax-exempt bonds (other than private activity bonds) issued by it during that calendar year will not exceed \$5,000,000; or the aggregate face amount of all tax-exempt bonds of the issuer (other than private activity bonds) actually issued during that calendar year does not exceed \$5,000,000. For this purpose, if an issue has more than a de minimis amount of original issue discount or premium, *aggregate face amount* means the aggregate issue price of that issue (determined without regard to pre-issuance accrued interest).

(2) *Aggregation rules.* The following aggregation rules apply for purposes of applying the \$5,000,000 size limitation under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(i) *On-behalf-of issuers.* An issuer and all entities (other than political subdivisions) that issue bonds on behalf of that issuer are treated as one issuer.

(ii) *Subordinate entities*—(A) *In general.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this section and section 148(f)(4)(D)(iv), all bonds issued by a subordinate entity are also treated as issued by each entity to which it is subordinate. An issuer is subordinate to another governmental entity if it is directly or indirectly controlled by the other entity within the meaning of § 1.150-1(e).

(B) *Exception for allocations of size limitation.* If an entity properly makes an allocation of a portion of its \$5,000,000 size limitation to a subordinate entity (including an on behalf of issuer) under section 148(f)(4)(D)(iv), the portion of bonds issued by the subordinate entity under the allocation is treated as issued only by the allocating entity and not by any other entity to which the issuing entity is subordinate. These allocations are irrevocable and must bear a reasonable relationship to the benefits received by the allocating unit from issues issued by the subordinate entity. The benefits to be considered include the manner in which—

- (1) Proceeds are to be distributed;
- (2) The debt service is to be paid;
- (3) The facility financed is to be owned;
- (4) The use or output of the facility is to be shared; and
- (5) Costs of operation and maintenance are to be shared.

(iii) *Avoidance of size limitation.* An entity formed or availed of to avoid the purposes of the \$5,000,000 size limitation and all entities that would benefit from the avoidance are treated as one issuer. Situations in which an entity is formed or availed of to avoid the purposes of the \$5,000,000 size limitation include those in which the issuer—

(A) Issues bonds which, but for the \$5,000,000 size limitation, would have been issued by another entity; and

(B) Does not receive a substantial benefit from the project financed by the bonds.

(3) *Certain refunding bonds not taken into account.* In applying the \$5,000,000 size limitation, there is not taken into account the portion of an issue that is a current refunding issue to the extent that the stated principal amount of the refunding bond does not exceed the portion of the outstanding stated principal amount of the refunded bond paid with proceeds of the refunding bond. For this purpose, *principal amount* means, in reference to a plain par bond, its stated principal amount plus accrued unpaid interest, and in reference to any other bond, its present value.

(d) *Pooled financings*—(1) *Treatment of pool issuer.* To the extent that an issuer of a pooled financing is not an ultimate

borrower in the financing and the conduit borrowers are governmental units with general taxing powers and not subordinate to the issuer, the pooled financing is not counted towards the \$5,000,000 size limitation of the issuer for purposes of applying the small issuer exception to its other issues. The issuer of the pooled financing issue is, however, subject to the rebate requirement for any unloaned gross proceeds.

(2) *Treatment of conduit borrowers.* A loan to a conduit borrower in a pooled financing qualifies for the small issuer exception, regardless of the size of either the pooled financing or of any loan to other conduit borrowers, only if—

(i) The bonds of the pooled financing are not private activity bonds;

(ii) None of the loans to conduit borrowers are private activity bonds; and

(iii) The loan to the conduit borrower meets all the requirements of the small issuer exception.

(e) *Refunding issues*—(1) *In general.* Sections 148(f)(4)(D)(v) and (vi) provide restrictions on application of the small issuer exception to refunding issues.

(2) *Multipurpose issues.* The multipurpose issue allocation rules of § 1.148-9(h) apply for purposes of determining whether refunding bonds meet the requirements of section 148(f)(4)(D)(v).

[T.D. 8476, 58 FR 33540, June 18, 1993]

§ 1.148-9 Arbitrage rules for refunding issues.

(a) *Scope of application.* This section contains special arbitrage rules for refunding issues. These rules apply for all purposes of section 148 and govern allocations of proceeds, bonds, and investments to determine transferred proceeds, temporary periods, reasonably required reserve or replacement funds, minor portions, and separate issue treatment of certain multipurpose issues.

(b) *Transferred proceeds allocation rule*—(1) *In general.* When proceeds of the refunding issue discharge any of the outstanding principal amount of the prior issue, proceeds of the prior issue become transferred proceeds of the refunding issue and cease to be proceeds of the prior issue. The amount of proceeds of the prior issue that becomes transferred proceeds of the re-

funding issue is an amount equal to the proceeds of the prior issue on the date of that discharge multiplied by a fraction—

(i) The numerator of which is the principal amount of the prior issue discharged with proceeds of the refunding issue on the date of that discharge; and

(ii) The denominator of which is the total outstanding principal amount of the prior issue on the date immediately before the date of that discharge.

(2) *Special definition of principal amount.* For purposes of this section, *principal amount* means, in reference to a plain par bond, its stated principal amount, and in reference to any other bond, its present value.

(3) *Relation of transferred proceeds rule to universal cap rule*—(i) *In general.* Paragraphs (b)(1) and (c) of this section apply to allocate transferred proceeds and corresponding investments to a refunding issue on any date required by those paragraphs before the application of the universal cap rule of § 1.148-6(b)(2) to reallocate any of those amounts. To the extent nonpurpose investments allocable to proceeds of a refunding issue exceed the universal cap for the issue on the date that amounts become transferred proceeds of the refunding issue, those transferred proceeds and corresponding investments are reallocated back to the issue from which they transferred on that same date to the extent of the unused universal cap on that prior issue.

(ii) *Example.* The following example illustrates the application of this paragraph of (b)(3):

Example. On January 1, 1995, \$100,000 of nonpurpose investments allocable to proceeds of issue A become transferred proceeds of issue B under § 1.148-9, but the unused portion of issue B's universal cap is \$75,000 as of that date. On January 1, 1995, issue A has unused universal cap in excess of \$25,000. Thus, \$25,000 of nonpurpose investments representing the transferred proceeds are immediately reallocated back to issue A on January 1, 1995, and are proceeds of issue A. On the next transfer date under § 1.148-9, the \$25,000 receives no priority in determining transferred proceeds as of that date but is treated the same as all other proceeds of issue A subject to transfer.

(4) *Limitation on multi-generational transfers.* This paragraph (b)(4) contains limitations on the manner in which